

August 15, 2011

Re: WT Docket No. 11-130

I am writing in support of the waiver sought by the Anchorage VEC of Section 97.505(a) of the FCC's Rules.

The Commission has already determined that a person who has passed an amateur exam element has exhibited the qualifications to be a radio amateur for an indefinite period of time. This is implied by the fact that retesting is not a prerequisite to operator license renewal.

There is no credible argument that can be made to support the notion that inadvertent failure to file a license renewal on a timely basis somehow compromises the abilities formerly demonstrated during testing.

The grant of this waiver would serve to increase the pool of licensed amateurs by removing the obstacle of a retesting requirement for the amateur who – for whatever reason – did not renew his license before the expiration of the license term and grace period. The amateur would be required to reapply for his license – it is only the retesting requirement which would be unnecessary.

A larger pool of licensed amateurs would be in the public interest by furthering the purpose expressed in the principles enumerated in Part 97.1 of the Commission's Rules. I therefore encourage the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to grant the waiver sought by the Anchorage VEC.

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